

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated September 8, 2004, the Examiner objects to pending claims 2-3 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Pending claims 6 and 9 are objected to based on informalities. Pending claims 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objection. Pending claims 1 and 4-8 are rejected on prior art grounds. In response, Applicant files the present Reply with Amendment and Remarks. Entry and consideration hereof are respectfully requested.

As will be shown herein, amended independent claims 2, 3 and 9 are novel and non-obvious over the cited reference and are thus allowable. Whereas, dependent claims 4-8 and 10 variously depend from allowable claims 2 and 9, they are thus correspondingly allowable.

The Examiner's particular rejections are now addressed in turn.

Claims 6 and 9 are objected to because of informalities. Specifically, claim 6, line 1 recites "a said disk" which Examiner cites as inappropriate. Claim 6 is herein amended to remove "said" which places the claim in proper format. Claim 6 is not further rejected or objected to and is thus allowable to Applicant.

Claim 9 recites "the tread section" as lacking antecedent basis. Claim 9 is herein amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the claim. Claim 9 is not further rejected or objected to and is thus allowable to Applicant. Whereas dependent claim 10 depends from allowable claim 9, it is thus correspondingly allowable.

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 2 and 3 are herein amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 from which they depended. Claim 1 is subsequently cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2 and 3 are not further rejected or objected to and are thus allowable.

to Applicant. Whereas dependent claims 4-8 variously depend from allowable claim 2, they are thus correspondingly allowable.

New claims 11-15 are herein newly added as variously depending from claim 3. As discussed above, amended claim 3 is not further rejected or objected to and is thus allowable to Applicant. Whereas dependent claims 11-15 variously depend from allowable claim 3, they are thus correspondingly allowable.

No new matter is added by way of the present Amendment and Remarks as support is found throughout the originally filed specification and claims. Withdrawal of all rejections and objections and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-listed phone number regarding this Response or otherwise concerning the present application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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